

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image-recording apparatus which divides a complete image larger in width than a recording-medium into a plurality of images and, records the divided images on a plurality of recording-media, comprising:

5 image recording assembly that has a recording-head to record an image on the recording-medium, and a recording-medium-carrying mechanism to carry the recording-medium relatively to the recording-head; and

10 a control section that has an image-processing section to subject image data to image processing, and controls the image recording assembly,

15 wherein the image-processing section divides the image data indicative of the complete image into a plurality of image data pieces indicative of divided images, detects two adjoining divided-images that individually have a joint portion and adjoin each other at the respective joint portions, in the divided images indicated by the divided image data pieces and rotates 20 one of the adjoining divided-images so as to make a recording direction of one of the adjoining divided-images opposite to a recording direction of the other adjoining divided-image,

25 the control section controls the image recording assembly so that a recording medium carries in one direction during recording all divided-images,

the divided images are recorded on the respective

recording-media one by one to form a plurality of output images,

and the plurality of output images configure one complete image.

5       2. The image-recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control section controls the image recording assembly so that the joint portions of the divided images on the adjacent recording media lie at the same position with respect to the width direction  
10      of the media.

15      3. The image-recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image-processing section divides the image data of the complete image in a width direction thereof based on a maximum recordable width according to a recording-medium used for recording.

20      4. The image-recording apparatus according to claim 3, wherein when the image-processing section divides the image data of the complete image based on the maximum recordable width, the number of the divided image data of the divided images is odd excluding 1, and there is divided image data of a width smaller than a width corresponding to the maximum recordable width, the image-processing section divides at least one of the image data of the divided images into two substantially at a center to set the number of divided image data to be even.  
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5. The image-recording apparatus according to

claim 1, wherein the image-processing section divides the image data of the complete image into a predetermined number so that the divided images are uniform in width.

5       6. The image-recording apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the predetermined number of divided image data is even.

10      7. The image-recording apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the image-processing section changes in magnification the image data of the divided images so that a width of each divided images to be recorded is substantially equal to a width of a largest recording-medium of used recording-media.

15      8. The image-recording apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the image-processing section compares the width of the divided image to be recorded with a maximum recordable width according to a used recording-medium, and

20      when the width of the divided image is large, image-processing section increases the number of divided image data, and divide the image data of the complete image.

25      9. The image-recording apparatus according to claim 5, wherein when a plurality of recording-media different in maximum recording width are selectively used, the control section compares the width of the each divided images with a maximum recordable width

according to each recording-medium, selects a recording-medium that margin is smallest, and records each divided image by using the recording-medium.

10. The image-recording apparatus according to  
5 claim 1, wherein the control section controls the image recording assembly so as to decide the divided image to be recorded first, and to sequentially record the divided images from the image nearest the first recorded divided image in arrangement of the image  
10 data.

11. The image-recording apparatus according to  
claim 10, wherein the image recording assembly is controlled so as to obtain the number of divided images between each divided image and the divided image to be recorded first in the width direction, and to start recording from a divided image that has a small number of divided images between itself and the divided image to be recorded first.  
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12. The image-recording apparatus according to  
20 claim 1, wherein the image-processing section obtains position information of the image data of the divided images in the width direction, and the control section controls the image recording assembly so as to record the divided images and the position information  
25 corresponding to the divided images on each recording-mediums.

13. An image forming method which divides a

complete image larger in width than a recording-medium into a plurality of images, and records the divided images on a plurality of recording-media, comprising:

detecting two adjoining divided-images,

5 recording one divided image from above and the other divided image from bottom among divided images corresponding to divided image data of image data of the complete image recorded on the recording-media.

10 14. An image forming method which divides a complete image larger in width than a recording-medium into a plurality of images, and record the divided images on a plurality of recording-media, comprising:

15 dividing image data of the complete image into a plurality of divided image data so as to become such an image width that the image is recorded on the recording-medium; and

20 recording divided images so that joined portions of two divided images to be joined to each other are at one position in a width direction of the recording-medium.

25 15. An image forming method which divides a complete image larger in width than a recording-medium into a plurality of images, connects a plurality of recording-media so as to be formed the complete image by connecting the plurality of divided images, and mutually connects both ends of the complete image, comprising:

dividing the complete image into an even number;  
detecting two divided-images corresponding to both  
ends of the complete image, to join each other, and  
setting one of the two divided-images so as to  
5 make a recording direction of one of the adjoining  
divided-images opposite to a recording direction of the  
other two divided-images, and to be located the joint  
portions of the two divided-images on one position in  
a width direction of a recording-medium.

10 16. An image processing program which causes  
an arithmetic unit to realize:  
an image acquisition function to obtain image data  
of a complete image;  
an image division function to divide the image  
15 data of the complete image into a plurality of divided  
image data pieces in at least one direction;  
an image selection function to select every other  
divided image data to be processed in one predetermined  
direction;  
20 an image rotation function to rotate the selected  
divided image data by about 180°; and  
an image-recording apparatus control function to  
control an image-recording apparatus so that each  
divided image data may be recorded on one recording-  
25 medium.